

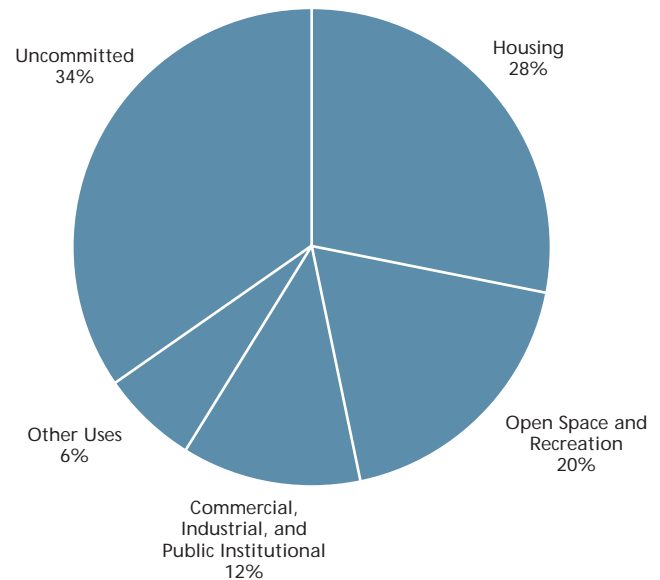
COUNTY PROFILE

LAND USE

Substantial portions of the County are devoted to residential housing of various types (28 percent). There are 955,000 housing units available to county residents, the majority of which are single family detached units. Affordable housing continues to be a pressing issue, with the average price of housing in the county reaching nearly one quarter of a million dollars. The percentage of first-time homebuyers continues to fall while their average age is rising, illustrating the increasing difficulty that first-time buyers are encountering.

Commercial, industrial, and public institutional uses account for less than 12 percent of the county's land area. More than a third of the county is classified as uncommitted, meaning it is either vacant or devoted to agricultural or mineral extraction activities.

Twenty percent of the land is dedicated to open space and recreation, including 42 miles of coastline. Nine beaches, three harbors and over 27,000 acres of regional parks (over 42 square miles) are maintained by the County for the enjoyment of county residents and the protection of natural resources.



Note:
Other Uses: Transportation, Communications, Utilities, Military, Water, Flood Plain
Uncommitted: Vacant or devoted to agricultural or mineral extraction activities

TRADE, TOURISM AND JOBS

Small businesses flourish in Orange County's entrepreneurial climate, with only 20 percent of citizens working in companies employing more than 500 people (compared with the state average of 25 percent). Small businesses have accounted for the bulk of job creation in the past few years. Orange County also has a very diverse economy, with no single sector accounting for more than one third of the economic output. However, the service sector has grown rapidly over the past 20 years, while manufacturing has declined. Tourism is one of the pillars of the economy, with visitor annual expenditures rising to a high of \$5.7 billion, even though the number of visitors (37.76 million) has remained relatively stable.

Total Visitor Expenditures and Total Number of Visitors Annually to Orange County

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Number of visitors (millions)	37.04	38.71	38.37	37.47	37.76
Travel Expenditures (\$ billion)	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.7

Source: Anaheim/Orange County Visitor & Convention Bureau; Division of Tourism, California Trade and Commerce Agency